

# Town hall meeting addresses base concerns

The base held its semi-annual Town Hall Meeting on June 6 at the Charleston Club.

The event offered an organizational fair, briefings on several base issues and drawings for door prizes to a crowd of 135 base personnel and family members. Col. Rusty Findley, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, opened the meeting with comments and encouraged the audience to use the open forum to ask questions and voice concerns.

Col. Dennis Kaan, 437<sup>th</sup> Support Group commander, discussed the Charleston County Police Department presence on base because people voiced concerns about the increase in speeding and in the number of crosswalk and stop sign violations on base during the December Town Hall meeting. Due to a high operations tempo, the 437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron asked the Charleston County Police Department to assist with law enforcement.

"Since then, the base has seen a significant decrease in traffic complaints, which means safer streets for base residents and their children," said Kaan.

The new Charleston AFB School Board Committee was also introduced at the meeting. The committee will be comprised of base volunteers who will represent base concerns to the District 4 School Board. Senior Master Sergeant Terrie Powell, 437<sup>th</sup> Support Group, is the point of contact and can be reached at 963-2202 for more information.

Master Sergeant William Erb, 437 AW Safety office, spoke about vehicle safety and "101 Critical

Days of Summer" safety initiatives.

The formal portion of the meeting closed with 437 SPTG squadron commanders' providing updates on their different area of expertise. Speakers included representatives from the 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron, Family Support Center, 437 SFS and 437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron.

Those attending the meeting were given the opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns about base issues. Individuals who expressed personal concerns received an answer from the 437 SPTG commander or the agency responsible for addressing the issue. **(Submitted by the 437 SPTG)**

## Issues addressed:

*Can a parking garage be built to park POVs close to the flight line? During a hurricane evacuation the parking structure could be used for AGE storage.*

There are some base areas that have strong parking demands with limited capability and CE is aware of these. We're building two squadron operations/aircraft maintenance units away from the congestion at Hill Boulevard and N. Bates Street. The facilities should be completed in July 2001 and should alleviate some of the parking problems in that area.

*My sidewalk, in military family housing, floods when it rains.*

Due to the age of our base housing and settling over the years, there are several houses and locations where drainage is a problem.

A project is being developed to correct the drainage problem on several units and we hope to program it for 2001, but funding constraints will

control this.

*Hurricane Floyd damaged the roof of my house and wildlife is taking residence in my attic. Can I get the problem taken care of?*

To date, we have not received funding to correct the damage in housing. We have been told it will soon be available. As soon as the funding is received, we will begin the process of contracting out the repairs. In the meantime, we will temporarily repair the holes the wildlife is using within the next 2 weeks. If any of the temporary repairs CE has made are not holding, please contact housing maintenance and we will reevaluate the repairs.

*When will the potholes be fixed and parking space stripes be painted at the Child Development Center?*

Since this inquiry, CE has repaired all of the potholes in the CDC parking lot. A striping delivery order has been awarded to a contractor and they should begin work in July.

*Where can base housing residents go to dispose of household hazardous waste?*

Due to manpower constraints, Charleston AFB does not have a centralized household hazardous materials collection point. Household hazardous materials can be taken to Bees Ferry Landfill, 1344 Bees Ferry Road, in Charleston County (763-8564). They are open Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays, 1-7 p.m.

Items must have original labels attached and be in closed containers that are not leaking. If you have any additional questions on household hazardous materials, please call the

Environmental Flight at 963-4977.

*When will all the fire hydrants be in service?*

Due to reduced shop manning, CE will contract repairs/replacement of 12 fire hydrants throughout base housing. This work should start in September.

*When will the Base Chapel have cross walks?*

Plans have been developed for additional cross walks near the chapel. We expect the project to be complete by the end of August.

*At one of the last town meetings, it was stated that housing would review its policy regarding the hanging of Christmas lights? What is the result?*

The policy was reviewed and due to safety reasons and possible damage to roofs, decorations are not allowed on the shingled area (roof) of houses.

*Why isn't the Commander's Channel (Channel 2) accessible in Hunley Park Housing?*

The signal for Channel 2 originates from the 437<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs office and is sent to COMCAST Cablevision, who transmits it to their customers.

Due to the current design of their cable infrastructure, COMCAST cannot send the signal to Hunley Park without also sending it to a large portion of North Charleston, where the channel is allocated for other purposes. It will cost \$21,000 to accommodate separating the signal to Hunley Park and we are currently researching funding alternatives.

## Top Dollar

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"This year's Top Dollar theme of "First In—Last Out—Excellence Throughout" certainly sums up our team's abilities as war fighters," he said.

The team began training full time in March. Their preparation for the event included a physical workout three days a week, to prepare for the obstacle course and provide overall endurance.

The team also studied regulations so they would be ready for any scenario they faced.

To prepare for the combat portion, the team practiced self-aid and buddy care, 9-mm handgun training and chemical warfare defense.

Both Solorzano and Braunbeck agree, "Everyone



**Team leader 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Andy Grab, is welcomed home from the competition by his children, Elizabeth (left) and Nick.**

can be credited with this win, those who competed, and those who carried the work load for the competitors. It's wonderful that the team did so well and it's owed in part to

those who kept the operation going here."

Charleston will represent AMC in the Air Force Top Dollar competition to be held later this year.

## Eye Surgery

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make it available at no cost," he said. "We would try to balance our training needs and the desires of our beneficiaries to try and make this available at a reasonable cost."

Mazzuchi said the military keeps tabs on emerging medical technologies for several reasons. For one, it's the best thing to do for DoD beneficiaries. For another, an exciting atmosphere helps attract quality medical professionals.

"We want to attract and retain the best-quality medical people the country has to offer. One of the best ways to do that it is with really good training programs and with exciting medicine," Mazzuchi said.

He said whether or not DoD is interested in a certain procedure or technology depends somewhat on the readiness implications of the procedure.

"One of the reasons laser eye surgery is so important to us is that it may free us from having to rely on glasses," Mazzuchi said.

However, the desire for cutting-edge techniques has to be balanced with ever-present fiscal constraints. "The taxpayers expect us to spend their money wisely," he said.

But the main driving force behind exploring new medical breakthroughs is to provide quality medical care for DoD beneficiaries. "We believe the people who serve their country ought to have top-quality medical care," Mazzuchi said. "We want our healthcare system to be the best healthcare system there is anywhere."